

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498
Ser. No. 10/540,457
Office Action dated: 08/19/08
Response dated: 11/19/08

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PATENT
PF030015

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) Process for access to multimedia elements stored by means of digital data, an image being associated with each element so as to control access to the latter said elements, wherein, ~~when one wishes to access one of these elements, said process comprises~~

~~displaying a first group of images associated with first elements is displayed,~~
and

~~means for displaying associating, with at least one of the displayed images,~~
~~means for controlling the display of a second group of images associated with~~
~~second elements, which group is distinct from the first group of images, are~~
~~associated with at least one of these displayed images wherein said means for~~
~~controlling contain selection criteria related to the nature or content of the~~
~~elements.~~

2. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 1, wherein said process further comprises

~~associating, with at least one of the images of the second group of images,~~
~~means for displaying controlling the display of a third group of images associated~~
~~with third elements, which group is distinct from the second group of images, are~~
~~associated with at least one of the images of the second group of images.~~

3. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, wherein a first group of images is displayed automatically as soon as means for displaying images are activated.

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4. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 1, wherein the process further comprises

displaying means for activating the display of a first group of images when an operation is performed on a multimedia element such as the display thereof, the storage thereof or the transmission thereof, means activating the display of a first group of images are displayed.

5. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 1, wherein the process further comprises

displaying means for controlling operations when a group of images is displayed, means controlling operations, such as a modification, a storage or a transmission, are also displayed.

6. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 1, wherein the number of images displayed is less than ten, preferably less than six.

7. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, wherein the elements corresponding to one and the same selection criterion forming a group, images associated with elements belonging to one and the same group are displayed in a group.

8. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 1, wherein one selects an image and/or a group from which are chosen images displayed by considering at least one of the following criteria: a frequency of access, a date of storage, a file size, technical parameters specific to the associated images such as a predominance of colour or the presence of determined reliefs in this image, a theme associated with the element, membership of one and the same semantic group, a similarity relating to the nature and/or to the content of the element, a random decision or a user's preferences.

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9. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, wherein the multimedia elements relate to video sequences, images, pieces of music and/or texts.

10. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, wherein a multimedia element relating to a photograph or to a video sequence, the image associated with this element is generated from this photograph or from this video sequence.

11. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, wherein an element is accessed by generating the display thereof.

12. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, wherein the displaying of the images is performed according to a chronological mode or according to a thematic mode.

13. (Currently amended) Device for access to multimedia elements stored by means of digital data, an image being associated with each element so as to access the latter said elements, wherein [[it]] said device comprises means for [[,]] displaying a first group of images associated with first elements, and
means for controlling, on the basis of one of the images displayed, the displaying of a second group of images, associated with second elements, which group is distinct from the first group of images, wherein said means for controlling contain selection criteria related to the nature or content of the elements.

14. (Currently amended) Device according to Claim 13, wherein [[it]] said device further comprises means for associating with at least one of the images of the second group means for displaying controlling the display of a third group of images, associated with third elements, which group is distinct from the second group of images.

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15. (Currently amended) Device according to Claim 13, wherein [[it]] said device further comprises means for automatically displaying a first group of images as soon as means of display of images are activated.

16. (Currently amended) Device according to Claim 13, wherein [[it]] said device further comprises means for displaying means activating the display of a first group of images upon an operation on a multimedia element ~~such as the display thereof, the storage thereof or the transmission thereof.~~

17. (Currently amended) Device according to Claim 13, wherein [[it]] said device further comprises means for displaying images according to a chronological mode or according to a thematic mode.